

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 LUSAKA 3327

FOR IOP/M

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

LUSAKA, NOVEMBER 3 -- THE DECISION BY THE UNITED STATES TO QUIT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION (ILO) HAS DRAWN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE HERE FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS INCLUDING THE ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH YESTERDAY DESCRIBED THE AMERICAN MOVE "A BLOW TO ZAMBIA AND THE WORKING MASSES OF THE WORLD."

THE US DECISION HAS SPARKED OFF A CHAIN REACTION HERE WITH THE PARTY DAILY, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA, ZAMBIAN MINISTER OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DINGISWAYO BANDA AND THE ZAMBIA CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS, ALL VOICING THEIR "DEEP CONCERN" OVER THE ACTION.

LABOR AND SOCIAL SERVICES MINISTER, DINGISWAYO BANDA, RESPONDING TO THE NEWS OF AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL, SAID ZAMBIA BENEFITED A LOT FROM ILO PROGRAMS BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE COUNTRY AND THE US WITHDRAWAL "IS A BLOW."

MR. BANDA SAID, HOWEVER, ZAMBIA WOULD COMPLY WITH ANY
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RE-ORGANIZATION DECISION ISSUED BY THE ILO SECRETARIAT IN GENEVA TO ACCOMMODATE AMERICA'S WITHDRAWAL.

ZAMBIA CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ZCTU) CHAIRMAN, FREDERICK CHILUBA, EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN, ACCORDING TO THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA, SAYING THAT IT WAS A "SAD SITUATION FOR THE WORKING MASSES OF THE WORLD."

THE AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO WOULD "SERIOUSLY AFFECT"
THE ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAMS SINCE THE US WAS ONE OF THE MAJOR
FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS, REPORTS THE PAPER.

THE ZCTU CHAIRMAN IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT HE EXPRESSED CONCERN
BECAUSE OF THE VAST LABOR EXPERIENCE WHICH ILO MEMBER STATES,
ESPECIALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ENJOYED BESIDES HEAVY FINANCIAL
CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE ORGANIZATION BY THE UNITED STATES.

AN IN AN EDITORIAL ON THE SAME ISSUE, THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA WRITES:
"PRESIDENT CARTER MAY HAVE TO WHEEL AND DEAL WITH CONGRESS.
BUT HE SHOULD THINK AGAIN ON TRADING AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AGENCY

AGAINST A SHORT-TERM DOMESTIC PROBLEM."

THE NEWSPAPER, CALLS THE US DECISION "THE MOST BACKWARD LOOKING
STEP IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS SINCE THE UNITED STATES REFUSED
TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AFTER THE FIRST WORLD WAR."

IT SAYS THE DECISION TO QUIT THE ILO BEARS ALL THE MARKS OF PRESSURE
FROM "BEHIND THE SCENES OF WASHINGTON POLITICS."

NOTING (HAT THE DEBISION TO QUIT THE ILO WAS MADE TWO YEARS AGO,
LONG BEFORE MR. CARTER WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT, THE TIMES COMMENTS:
"THE FINAL DECISION IS HOWEVER VERY SURPRISING COMING AT A TIME WHEN
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THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS SUPPOSEDLY COMMITTED TO GREATER WORLD
CO-OPERATION. THE DECISION TO QUIT THE ILO IS AT VARIANCE WITH
THAT POLICY."

IT IS THE VIEW OF THE TIMES THAT "AMERICA HAS A MORAL
OBLIGATION TO BEAR WHATEVER INSULTS ARE HEAPED ON HER SO THAT HER
INFLUENCE MAY BE BROUGHT TO BEAR."

ZTHE ONLY WAY TO REFORM AN ORGANIZATION IS TO STAY WITHIN
IT. THE ILO IS NOT THE ONLY SUCH AGENCY WHICH OFTEN NEGLECTS
ITS SUPPOSED FUNCTIONS FOR POLITICS," THE TIMES EDITORIAL SAYS.

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IT GOES ON: "EARLIER THIS YEAR, ZAMBIA WARNED THE AMERICANS THAT A WITHDRAWAL WOULD DAMAGE AMERICAN INTERESTS IN THE WORLD. CERTAINLY IT NOW MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO BELIEVE PRESIDENT CARTER'S FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS."

THE PAPER FEELS THAT THE US DECISION ON THE ILO "WILL CERTAINLY MAKE US SUSPICIOUS OF AMERICA'S REASONS FOR JOINING OTHER UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES AND THE UN ITSELF."

HOWEVER, THE TIMES EDITORIAL CONCLUDES ON A HOPEFUL NOTE: "WE HOPE THE AMERICAN DECISION WILL BE REVERSED. THOSE NATIONS THAT BELIEVE IN THE IDEALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS ZAMBIA DOES MUST SHOUT LOUDLY TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO AMERICA THAT HER ACTION WEAKENS THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF."

IN LOCAL NEWS, ZAMBIA CLAIMS TO HAVE SHOT DOWN TWO AIRCRAFT, ONE SOUTH AFRICA AND THE OTHZR RHODESIA, IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS YESTERDAY.

ACCORDING TO LEAD ITEMS IN BOTH THE TIMES AND THE MAIL, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE FIRST AIRCRAFT WAS SHOT DOWN AT SESHEKE IN THE COUNTRY'S WESTERN PROVINCE WHERE SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS REPORTEDLY LAUNCHED COMBINED AIRBORNE AND GROUND ATTACKS ON THE CIVILIAN POPULATION IN THE AREA.

THE TWO NEWSPAPERS REPORT THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS USED ARMOUR, UNCLASSIFIED

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ARTILLERY, MORTARS, SMALL ARMS, HELICOPTERS AND JET FIGHTERS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID BQ YESPERDWY AFTERNOON, THE EXCHANGE OF FIRE WHICH STARTED SHORTLY BEFORE MID-DAY, WAS STILL GOING ON.

IN A SECOND INCIDENT, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN LIVINGSTONE, A RHODESIAN PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN BY THE ZAMBIA NATIONAL DEFENCE FORCES WHEN IT REPORTEDLY VIOLATED ZAMBIAN AIR SPACE.

YESTERDAY'S INCIDENTS COME ONLY FIVE DAYS AFTER BOTH ZAMBIA AND

RHODESIA CLAIMED THEY HAD DESTROYED AMMUNITION DUMPS IN EACH OTHERS SIDE OF THE BORDER.

IN OTHER NEWS, THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT OF THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS THAT A NETWORK OF GIRL SPIES WORKING FOR UGANDAN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN IS OPERATING IN LUSAKA.

THE FEMALE "JAMES BONDS", ACCORDING TO ARNOLD RAPHAEL, ARE ALSO ACTIVE IN OTHER WORLD CAPITALS WHERE UGANDANS WHO HAVE FLED PRESIDENT AMIN'S TYRANNICAL RULE ARE CONCENTRATED. MR. RAPHAEL'S REPORT QUOTES UNNAMZD EXILE SOURCES IN LONDON AS HAVING CONFIRMED THAT APART FROM OPERATING IN THE ZAMBIAN CWPITAL THE GIRLS WERE ACTIVE IN NAIROBI, DAR ES SALAAM, PARIS, NEW YORK, LONDON, STOCKHOLM, AND BONN.

MEANWHILE, ZAMBIA WILL NOT BE REPRESENTED AT THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE OAU FOR INFORMATION MINISTERS IN KAMPALA BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 7 DUE TO "PRIOR COMMITMENTS." THE FIVE-DAY MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE CREATION OF AN ALL-AFRICA NEWS AGENCY TO BE CALLED 'PAN AFRICA NEWS AGENCY' (PANA).

A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN HERE SAID ALTHOUGH ALL PAPERS ENABLING THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING AND TOURISM TO SEND UNCLASSIFIED

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A DELEGATION TO THE MEETING WERE IN ORDER AND READY, THE MINISTRY HAD INDICATED IT WOULD NOT BE REPRESENTED BECAUSE OF PRIOR COMMITMENTS.

FROM MOGADISHU, TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTER, FRIDAY NG'ONA REPORTS THAT SOMALIA MAY SEVER DIPLOMATIC LINKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IF MOSCOW DOES NOT RECONSIDER THE ROLE IT IS PRESENTLY PLAYING IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

IN A FRONT PAGE ITEM HEADLINED "BARRE TURNS TO U.S. FOR HELP", THE TIMES REPORTER QUOTES SOMALI HEAD OF STATE, MOHAMED SIAD BARRE AS TELLING A NEWS CONFERENCE THAT HE WAS CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES TO RESPOND TO ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS BY EXEPTING ITS INFLUENCE IN THE AREA.

" THE UNITED STATES HAS AN INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO FOCUS ITS ATTENTION HERE IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE FOR ALL MANKIND," MR. BARRE REPORTEDLY SAID.

ALTHOUGH THE U.S., FRANCE AND BRITAIN WHO PROMISED MILITARY SUPPORT TO SOMALIA HAD NOT HONORED THEIR PROMISES, SOMALIA WOULD LIKE TO MAINTAIN CLOSE LINKS WITH THEM.

ASKED WHETHER SOMALIA WAS CONSIDERING BREAKING OFF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION IN VIEW OF THE SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA,

PRESIDENT BARRE REPORTEDLY SAID THIS WAS LIKELY.

HE IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID: "IT IS CLEAR. WHAT WOULD
YOU DO IF YOU FOUND OUT THAT A FRIEND'S ACTIONS ARE DANGEROUS
TO YOUR INTERESTS?". ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
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